

Serial No.: 10/564,987

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Remarks

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application are not obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

REJECTIONS**A. 35 U. S. C. § 103**

1. Claims 10-11, 13 and 15-17 are not obvious over Yajima in view of Lu ('578) and Shikama et al.

Claims 10-11, 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yajima (Japanese Patent Application JP04-267203 published September 22, 1992) in view of Lu (U. S. Application Publication 2004/0160578 published August 14, 2004) and Shikama et al. (U. S. Patent 5,634,704 issued June xx, 1997). Applicants submit that these claims are not rendered obvious by the combination of these references.

Contrary to the Examiner's statement about Yajima at paragraph starting at line 3, page 6 of the OA, the question is not an optimal ranges of divergence, but rather the possibility of using large divergence ($> 5^\circ\text{C}$) thus allowing to focus the light beam emitted by the source at close proximity of the entry face of the light integrator, as now claimed (see amendment at the end of claim 10). As a matter of fact, without large divergence (as for instance with a collimated light beam as in Yajima's document : ref.2 on fig.1), a lens would have been necessary to have the light beam emitted by the source focusing at close proximity of the entry face of the light integrator. Such a focusing is important to allow the light integrating device to perform its integrating function.

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Moreover, as stated in applicant's specification at page 8, lines 2-9, "The advantage in using a grid polarizing beam splitter as claimed is that it has a very high separation efficiency over a wide range of angles of incidence, which here allows it to be illuminated by an uncollimated beam, notably exhibiting a large divergence that is greater than or equal to 5° on either side of its average direction. Thus, claim 10 is patentable over Yajima.

Neither, Yajima, Lu or Shikama et al. describe or suggest the possibility of using large divergence ($> 5^\circ$) thus allowing to focus the light beam emitted by the source at close proximity of the entry face of the light integrator, as now claimed (see amendment at the end of claim 10). Thus, claim 10 is patentable over the combination of Yajima, Lu and Shikama et al.

Claims 11, 13 and 15-17 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 10. In view of the above, claims 11, 13 and 15-17 are also patentable over the combination of these references.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

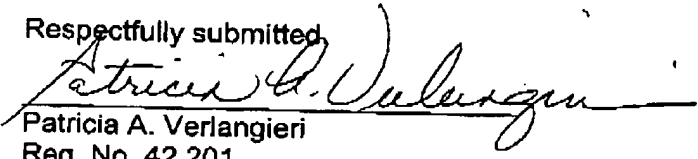
If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring an adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the

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application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. Verlangieri
Reg. No. 42,201
(609) 734-6867

Thomson Licensing
P. O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

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